THE Life and Death OF Mother Shipton.

Being not only a true Account of her Strange BIRTH, and most Important Passages of her LIFE, but also of her Prophesies: Now newly Collected, and Historically Experienced, from the time of her Birth, in the Reign of KING HENRY the VII, until this present Year 1684. Containing the most Important Passages of State during the Reign of these Kings and Queens of *England* following, viz.

Henry the VIII. } King *James*.
Edward the VI. } King *Charles* the I.
Queen *Mary*. } King *Charles* the II.
Queen *Elizabeth*. } Whom God Preserve.

Strangly Preserved amongst other Writings belonging to an Old Monastry in *York-shire*, and now published for the Information of Posterity. To which are added, some other Prophesies yet unfulfil'd. As also Mr. *Holwell* late Predictions concerning the *Turk*, *Pope*, and *French* King. With Reflections thereupon.

London, Printed for *Benj. Harris*, at the *Stationers-Arms* and *Anchor* under the *Piazza* of the *Royal Exchange*. 1684.

Beloved Country-men,

THE great Fame, and general received Opinion of *Mother Shipton*, with the Credit she hath obtained by those several *Prophesies* uttered by her, which since in the greatest Measure have come to pass: These considerations (I say) put me upon a Resolution to search out by my best endeavour, the Parents, Place, and Time wherein this *Mother Shipton* Flourished. Many old Manuscripts and rusty Records I turned over, but all in vain; at last I was Informed by a Gentleman (whose Ancestors by the Gift of King *Henry* the Eighth, enjoyed a *Monastery* in these parts) that he had in his keeping some Antient Writings which would in that point satisfie my desire, were they not so Injured by Time, as now not legible to Read; however, I not despairing to find out their meaning, with much Importunity desired to have a sight of them; which having obtained, I took of the best Galls I could get, beat them Grossly, and laid them to steep one day in good White-wine, that done, I distilled them with the Wine; and with the Distilled-Water that came off them, I wetted handsomely the old Letters, whereby they seemed as fresh and fair, as if they had been but newly Written; Here did I find her Life and Prophesies Copied out by an Impartial Hand, which I have in this Book presented to thy view, together with an Exposition upon her Prophesies, for the better understanding of them, and which may serve to them whose leisure will not permit to Read, or want of Money forbid to buy more Volumious Authors; this (I say) may serve to them instead of a Chronicle, wherein they may find Related the chiefest matters performed in each King and Queens Reign, since the time wherein she flourished; much more might be added, but least I should exceed the bounds of an Epistle, and like the Citizens of *Mindum*, make my Gates too bigg for my City, I shall here break off abruptly, Wishing thee as much pleasure in the Reading thereof, as I had in the Writing of it; and so, *Farewel.*

R. H.

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THE

The LIFE and DEATH of MOTHER *SHIPTON.*

CHAP. I.

What her Father and Mother were, and what Wonderful things happened at her Birth, as also the place of Her Nativity.

IN the Second Year of King Henry the Seventh, which was in the Year of our Lord One thousand Four hundred Eighty and six; there lived a Woman called Agatha Shipton, at a place called Nasborough near the Dropping-Well in York-shire. She came of poor Parentage, who Died and left her to shift for her self, at the Age of fifteen. After their Decease, she still Inhabited in the Old House; but being now deprived of those helps she formerly enjoyed, conducible to a lively-hood, she was constrained to seek Relief from the Parish; which she did, but with so much regret and grief, that she seemed in her begging, rather to command Alms, then in an humble manner to desire it. At length she arrived to that pass, that she was upon the matter starving, rather then she would be beholding to the Charity of any.

The Devil looking on her Poverty to be great, and knowing her evil inclinations by her complexion (for you must understand, that the Devil is a great Scholar, well read in all things, and much acquainted with the constitutions of all sorts of persons) I say, perceiving that she was willing to accept of any proposition to change her condition: One time as she was sitting Melancholy under a Tree by a River side, accosted her in the form of a very handsome young man well apparel'd, with all things suitable to a youthful garb. Pretty Maid, (quoth he) why dost thou sit so sad? Thy age is too slender for thy head to be troubled with cares of the World: come tell me what is the matter, and if it lye within my power to assist thee (as I am sure it doth) thou shalt not want a Friend of me.

Agatha casting up her eyes, and there seeing a Face so lovely, could not suspect a Devil hid in that comely shape; whereupon in a lamentable tone she expresst all that troubled her, informing him of her great wants, and that knowing not how to work, she could not provide for her

her necessaries required: With (said the Devil) this is nothing, be ruled by me, and all shall be well; she told him she would, hereupon he ordered her to meet him at the same place the next day, and he would bring some friends along with him, for he told her he resolved to marry her; she promised him she would, and accordingly they met. He came riding upon a stately Horse, with a Pillion behind for his Spouse, attended by a great many Gallants (as they appeared) well mounted, and in a Noble Equipage.

His Devilships attendants soon conveyed his Mistris behind him, as she imagined; not in the least doubting the reality of what she saw.

They needed neither switch nor spur to hasten them forward, the Jades were fiery enough of themselves, and ran with that swiftness that the wind could not overtake them in their full speed; soon they arrived at their Journeys end, where seemed to be a very stately House, with a great pair of Gates, which at their approach opened by a Porter with his stick, in his Livery-gown: Alighting, she went in, where she saw a great many Servants, which seemed at the sight of her and their Master, to show much respect and obeisance.

Now did the Devil command rich Garments to be brought, which she was immediately cloathed with, and being thus richly attired, she was ushered into a great Hall, where was a long Table furnished with all the Varieties the whole World could afford; at the upper end of which Table she was placed, next her the Friend her intended Husband; all the rest of the Guests did place themselves as they thought fit. As they had the choicest cheere, so had they the best of Wines, and sweetest Musick.

Dinner being ended, they fell to Dancing; and now could my lecherous Devil stay no longer, but he must needs walk a Corant with his Mistris into another private Room, and there courted her to Lust; the simple Girle consented, and so they both went to Bed together, with the Ceremonies of Marriage. His touches (as she confessed to the Widwife that delivered her of her Devilish Off-spring) were as cold as Ice, or Snow. After they had lain a little while together, he told her what he was, and what she must do hereafter, if she intended to live happy and delightful days. First, he told her that he was no Mortal, but a Spirit immaterial, and not burdened by a body, nor hindered by any material thing; so that I can when I please pierce through the Earth and ransack its Treasures, and bring what precious things I please from thence to bestow on those that serve me. I know all rare Arts and Sciences, and can teach them to whom I please. I can disturb the

Element

Element, stir up Thunders and Lightnings, destroy the best of things which were created for the use of Man, and can appear in what shape or form I please. It will be too long to describe my power, or tell thee what I can do; but will only tell thee what thou shalt do. That being done, I will give thee power to raise Hail, Tempests, with Lightning and Thunder; the Winds shall be at thy command, and shall bear thee whither thou art willing to go, though never so far off, and shall bring thee back again when thou hast a mind to return. The hidden treasures of the Earth shall be at thy disposal and pleasure, and nothing shall be wanting to compleat thy happiness here. Thou shalt moreover, heal or kill whom thou pleasest; destroy or preserve either Man or Beast; know what is past, and assuredly tell what is to come. Here note by the way, the Devil is a Lyar from the beginning, and will promise more by ten millions, than he knows he is capable to perform, to the intent he may insnare and damn a Soul.

This poor ignorant wretch easily believed what this grand Deceiver of Mankind told her; and being ravish'd with the thoughts of being so highly preferr'd, she condescended to all the Devil would have her do: whereupon he bid her say after him, in this manner: Raziel ellimiham frammish ziragia Psonthonphanchia Raphael elhaveruna tapinotambecaz mitzphecat jarid cumam hapheah Gabriel Heydonturris dungeonis philonomostarkes sopnecord hankim. After she had repeated these words after him, he pluckt her by the Groin, and there immediately grew a kind of Net, which he instantly sucht, telling her that must be his constant Custom with her morning and evening; now bid he bid her say after him again, Kametzeatuph Odel Pharaz Tumbagin Gall Flemmegen Victow Denmarkeonto, having finisht his last hellish speech, which the chiefest of his Minions understand not, out of which none but the Devil himself can pick out the meaning; I say, it thundred so horridly, that every clap seemed as if the vaulted roof of Heaven had cracht and was tubling down on her head; and withal that stately Palace which she thought she had been in, vanisht in a trice; so did her sumptuous apparel: and now her eyes being opened, she found her self in a dark dolesome wood; a place which from the Creation, had scarce ever enjoyed the benefit of one single Sun-Beam. Whilst she was thinking what course to steer in order to her return, two flaming fiery Dragons appear'd before her eyes to a Chariot, and as she was consulting with her self what was best to be done, she insensibly was hurried in it, and with speed unimaginably conveyed through the Air to her own poor Cottage.

CHAP. II.

How the Devil constantly visited her, in what Forms and Shapes; what strange things she did to those that offended her, harmless, and making sport with others; and at length brought to Bed of a Child, which is commonly called, Mother Shipton.

BEing come home, the Neighbours flock'd about her, having mist her two or three days, shrewdly suspecting some mischief had befallen her; but when they beheld her face they were all amazed, to see such a strange alteration in her countenance, in so short a time; and here the Proverb was verified in her: She looke as if a Hagg had rid her. Before she met with this wanton Devil, she look't plump and fresh, which were all the good qualities she had in her ill featured face; but now that red plumpness banisht, and there was nothing to be seen but a pale shriveled skin on her cheek, which for want of flesh seemed to fall in her mouth, to be devoured by her hunger-starved jaws. Those about her which were charitable minded, pitied her, comforted and gave her Monys, which with a great deal of disdain and scorn she threw them, saying, she wanted not, nor stood in need of their Alms; for look ye here (said she) is Money enough, plucking her hand out of her Pocket, the People drawing near her, discovered that what was in her hands was nothing else but some Aspin-leaves: and notwithstanding, they endeavoured to perswade her that she was mistaken in supposing that to be Money, yet would she not believe them; so strong a Power the Devil had gotten over her already.

In fine, she did bid them all be gone, for now she began to take little delight in humane Society: it was not long that they had left her, before the Devil (with whom she had made a Hellish Contract) came in to see her, in the same handsome young form as he first appeared unto her, telling her that he came to supply the company of those she had wisely dismist, that she needed not the Society of humane creatures, for he would not fail to be constantly with her; always bringing with him what should not only serve for a bare Livelyhood, but her Delight, Pleasure, and Satisfaction: Hereupon by the Devils Command, there instantly appeared seemingly, a compleat noise of Musick, with Dishes of Meat, great variety of the choicest and most pleasing sort: which so ravished Agatha, that she fell to the ground in a very profound and deep Trance. One of her Neighbours coming in this while, wondered to

ſee Agatha lying on the floor motionleſs; however out of pity and commiſeration, ſhe kneeled down, and having croſt her ſelf, and ſaid a ſhort Prayer, ſhe endeavoured to waken Agatha, but uſing what means ſhe could, it all ſignified nothing; ſhe ſhook and pincht her, and pulled her by the Noſe, yet ſtill ſhe lay inſenſible: This Neighbouring-woman being ſtrangly amazed and ſcared hereat, ran out amongſt the reſt of her Neighbours, crying out that poor Agatha Shipton was ſuddainly ſtruck dead, and ſo deſired them to go into the houſe with her, and they ſhould there be the Eye-witneſſes of the truth thereof; whereupon ſeveral went and found what this Woman had ſaid, to be ſeemingly true: but one wiſer then the reſt ſtooped down and perceiving that ſhe breathed, ſpake aloud, Friends, ye are all miſtaken, Agatha is not dead, but in a Trance, or elſe ſhe is bewitched; ſhe had ſcarce uttered theſe words before Agatha began to ſtir; and ſoon after, raiſed her ſelf on her Leggs, crying out in a very diſtracted tone, What make ye here, vile wretches? Cannot I enjoy my pleaſures, but ye muſt be Ones-dropping? get ye gone, as having nothing to do here, and hereupon ſhe fell a Dancing, which they wondered at, becauſe they could here no Muſick. At length Agatha turning about, and ſeeing they were not gone: ſaid, if ye are reſolved thus to diſturb me, and will not go, I will make ye; this ſome thing affrighted them, for they now verily believed ſhe was a Witch; and as they were haſtning away with all imaginable ſpeed, a ſudden ſtrong Wind hoiſted them a great height into the Air, falling all to the ground again without the leaſt harm, only ſome ſhame to the Women, for they deſcended with their Heads downwards, their Coats over their Ears, their lower parts appearing all naked to the aſtoniſhed Spectators; the Men were ſeen like overgrown Goats, with large horns on their heads, and Women riding on their backs, which ſights as they produced inexpreſſible wonder, ſo amidſt their amazement, they could not but burſt out into exceſſive laughter.

This wonderful and unexpected exploit, was inſtantly noiſed all about the Countrey, which occaſioned a great reſort of People to the place where Agatha lived; which ſo perplext her by their undeſired viſits, that ſhe reſolved within her ſelf to be revenged on ſome of them; which by the Devils help ſhe effected; miſchieving ſome in their perſons, others in their Cattel, and others in their Credits; one had a Horſe that dyed ſuddenly, and being opened, there was found in his Stomach Fiſh-hooks, and Hair, inſtead of Hay and Oats. Another go-

ing

ing to sit down at Table with Persons of good quality at dinner-time, and thinking himself very spruse and fine, had in an instant his Ruffe pull'd off, and the seat of an House of Office clapt on in its place, he that sate next him breaking out into a great laughter at the sight thereof, was served little better; for his Hatt was invisibly conveyed away, and a Pan of a Close-stool which stood in the next Room, put on instead thereof; A modest young Gentlewoman which did sit at the Table at that time, on no other errand but to see this young Witch which was so much talked of; looking on these two worthy spectacles of laughter, endeavouring all she could to refrain laughing, but could not, and withal continued farting for above a quarter of an hour; this made them all laugh so extreamly that the Waiter of the House was alarum'd (below) therewith, and being desirous to share with his Guests in their mirth, came running up stairs as fast as his legs would carry him, about to enter the door, he could not, and no wonder, since the oldest man living, never saw a larger pair of horns then he had on his Head: Whilst they were gazeing one on another as more then half distracted, they were all reduced to the same condition they were in before; after which there followed a noise, as if an hundred persons were laughing together, but nothing at all was seen.

These persons fearing something worse might befal them if they staid any longer, made all the hast they could to be gone: Agatha knowing their intent, resolved to take her farwel of them, by serving them one trick more, which was thus; as they were about to mount on Horseback, they were pelted with rotten Apples, Dung, and Stuff that smelt worse than can be imagined. As they rid through the Town, such men as thought they rid singly, were all observed to have behind them a deformed old Woman; and as their Faces differ'd all one from another, so did their habits which were all tatter'd and ragged, and patcht with a hundred colours, fear, shame, and the hooting of the People, made them put spurs to their Horses, neither did they forbear the Switch, nor any thing that may add speed to their Horses heels, so that it may be said, they rather flew then rode; how could it be otherwise? For needs must he go whom the Devil drives.

Coming home, they declare what wonderful things they had seen performed, though by a young one, yet as they believed the greatest Witch in the World: this news being so generally spred, came at length to the ear of the Justices, who now thought it high time to question and bring into examination a person that was so much talked of, and might, if let alone, do greater mischief.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

How Agatha Shipton was Apprehended and brought before a Justice, what her Confession was, her Mittimus being made to be sent to Prison; how she escaped by the help of her Friend, the Fiend; she is retaken, and being found with Child, is Bail'd.

AGatha is now no longer suspected but plainly known to be a Witch, doing something or other daily which is very remarkable; she hath been frequently observed to walk alone muttering to her self, and having been watcht by some, they have seen her stamp upon the ground thrice, then wound her hands over her head: lastly, she spake one word thrice, and in the twinkling of an eye, the sky hath been dark and gloomy, though clear before, which belcht out nothing for half an hour but flames, & thundring after a most hideous manner.

But

But now the time drawes on, wherein she must give an account for what she hath done, and in order thereunto, she is apprehended by two resolute Fellows, who were not a whit daunted when they entred the house, though Toads, Adders, and such-like noisome Creatures crawled up and down the house, but could not chuse but be much startled when they seiz'd her, and were carrying her, to hear such a terrible Crack of Thunder, the house at that time reeling too and fro like a Cradle.

However they carryed her before the Justice, where being brought, she was strictly examined by him; she not a jot daunted, told him that she had more Authority then he, and that notwithstanding his power, she could command one that could over-rule him when he list; that she was a Princess, and could have at her beck a Thousand Spirits of the Air, and as many of the Earth and Water, that she could raise a Tempest presently, that should overturn his house about his Ears; and that you may know, it lies not in your power to detain me, three words shall procure my liberty: hereupon she said, Updraxi, call Stygicon Helluox, she had not scarce uttered the last word, before there came in a horrid winged Dragon, which immediately took her up, and carried her away from the amazed Justice and Attendants about him half-dead with fear.

This so affrighted all that heard of it, that none would undertake to meddle with her more; so that she had a considerable time of respite. But she now began to be more admired than before, being discovered by the great swelling of her Belly, to be with Child: The people could not tell what to think, or who should be the Father, concluding that none would be so vile and wicked, as to have Copulation with a Devil incarnate; neither could they believe a Spirit had either desire or power, to generate with any humane Creature; while people were generally passing their verdicts on Agatha, she was once more taken and brought before a Justice, and amongst other questions, was asked, whether she was with Child, she acknowledged it; nay further, that it was begot by no Mortal Wight: The Justice gave no Credit to what she said, as looking on her as an ignorant seduced Woman; and so askt her what Bail she could produce, intending to defer the business till she was Delivered; in this very nick of time, two Gentlemen as they appeared by their habits, voluntarily proffered themselves, which as soon as accepted for Bail, vanish't presently, however Agatha had permission to go home.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

What kind of shape Mother Shipton had when she was Born: How she was put to Nurse at the charge of the Parish; and what strange things were seen in that House where she was Nurst, during the time of Four years.

The usual time of Forty weeks being expired, her Mother, after many strange and horrible Torments which she underwent in her Travail, was at last Delivered (by the rare Skill and Industry of her Midwife, and others of that Sex) of her which is now called, Mother Shipton, which proved the conclusion of her miserable Life. But her entry into the World was such a terror to all that beheld her, that several credible persons then present, have several times confest that they never beheld the like: Such strange and horrible Noises, that the persons concern'd about her, could scarce find so much Courage in themselves as to continue in the place where she was, much less when they beheld the strange and unparrallel'd Phisiognomy of the Child, which was so misshapen, that it is altogether impossible to express it fully in words, or the most ingenious to Limn her in colours, though many persons of eminent qualifications in that Art have often attempted it, but without any success; and therefore according to the best observations of her, take this true, though not full account of her features, and body: She was of an indifferent height, but very morose and big boned her head very long, with very great gaggling, but sharp and fiery Eyes, her Nose of an incredible and unproportionable length, having in it many crooks and turnings, adorned with many strange Pimples of divers colours, as Red, Blew, and Wirt, which like Vapours of Brimstone gave such a lustre to her affrighted Spectators in the dead time of the Night, that one of them confessed several times in my hearing, that her Nurse needed no other light to assist her in the performance of her Duty: Her Cheeks were of a black swarthy complexion, much like a mixture of black and yellow Jaundice, wrinkled, shrivelled, and very hollow; insomuch, that as the Ribs of her Body, so the impression of her Teeth were easily to be discerned, through both sides of her Face, covering one side to the other, like the notches in a Valley, excepting only two of them which stood quite out of her Mouth,

in imitation of the Tushes of a wild Boar, or the Tooth of an Elephant, a thing so strange in an Infant, that no age can parallel: Her Chin was of the same Complexion as her Face, turning up towards her mouth, shreds being heard, from an unknown cause, as if there had been a more than an ordinary correspondence between her Teeth and it.

Her Neck so strangly distorted, that her right shoulder was forced to be a supporter to her head, it being propt up by the help of her Chin, in such sort, that the right side of her Body stood much lower than the left; like the reeling of a Ship that sails with a side wind. Again, her left side was quite turned the contrary way, as if her Body had been screw'd together piece after piece, and not rightly placed: her left shoulder hanging just Perpendicular to her Fundament.

Her Leggs very crooked and mishapen: The Toes of her feet looking towards her left side; so that it was very hard for any person (could she have stood up) to guess which road she intended to take her course; because she never could look that way she resolved to go.

After she had remained under the care of her Nurse, for the space of a Month or thereabouts, her Mother being unable to provide for her, she was put out to Nurse at the charge of the Parish, to a poor Woman hard by in the Town, where she continued for the space of half a year or thereabouts, the house not being any ways disturbed at all, till at last her Nurse having been abroad amongst some of the chief of the Parishoners, either to procure something of their Charity for her subsistance, and the maintainance of her Family, or else to fetch her money from the Overseers of the Poor, for Nursing the Child; and returning home to her House, she found her doors unbard and wide open, where-at she much amazed and affrighted, ran to her next Neighbour, and acquainted her that she was quite undone, for her house was broken open and robbed, the man immediately riseth from his Dinner, carrying his bread and Cheese in his hand, accompained with his wife and another labouring man; approaching the door, endeavoured to enter, but before they could all get quite in, there was immediately a very strange noise heard in the next Room to them, as if it had been a consort of Catts, which so affrighted them, that they all run towards the door endeavouring to get out again; but it was in vain; for at their approach there were great long poaks about their Necks, in the form of a Cross, or turning Pike, so that they could not possibly return;

return; and while they were thus striving and crying out for help, their yoaks at last fell off, and a coule-staff, or Brewers-sling laid upon the mens shoulders; upon which an old woman pretended her self naked, sometimes hanging by the Heels, sometimes by the Toes, anon by the Middle; with divers other postures, they continuing for the space of half an hour, in such sort, that the poor men were never more tired in clearing of Leggs, nor less pleased at any thing than in being constrained to humour this piece of hellish activity.

After they had got a discharge from this their new employment, the house now being quiet and they a little recovered their senses, and missing the women, they ran further into the house, where at last they found them lying flat upon their Bellies, their cloaths being turned backwards over their heads, two great black Cats were playing Hocus Pocus upon their posteriors, which the men in vain attempted to drive away, until at last their own flattery procured the womens freedom from that employment, though they changed not much for the better, for as they were coming out of that Room, in the next there stood a pair of Partwingles, made in the form of a Cross, upon which women use to put great skains of Yarn, that so they may wind it off with more ease and less trouble: these being placed in the middle of the Room, the two men and two women were forced to take the four ends thereof in their hands, and so daunce round about the Room one after another, until such time as they were almost tired to death, carrying upon every one of their shoulders an Imp in the likeness of a Monkey or Ape, which hung close upon them; and when ever they slackned their pace, their Spirits pricked them forward, continuing this recreation for a very considerable time; and being cloy'd with this kind of diversion, they vanish quite out of sight, leaving their poor wretches as weary as aforesaid; (notwithstanding) no sooner perceived themselves at liberty, but they presently quitted the house, and soon after according resolved to leave of the Neighbourhood, acquainting them with what had happened, which caused great amazement amongst them, and immediately the whole Town was in an uproar; and the chiefest and richest of the most eminent Inhabitants, consulted together what the occasion thereof should be, and what to do in the business, some of them threatning the Mother; others thinking they were bewitched: but at last they resolved to go to the house; yet when they came near, there arose a great dispute amongst them who should first enter, which

at last was agreed upon, and the Parson (with his Congregation attending him in the Rear;) gave them the first onset, and entring the door quivering and shaking, they heard the Nurse-Child cry in a most hideous and doleful manner; whereupon there was suddenly a noise like the treading of People upon Stones, though the House in any place had no other than an earthen Floor; at which the Child ceased, and a very sweet Musical Harmony of several Notes was heard, and all presently vanished again: after which the Minister and Inhabitants entring, and searching the House, and at length missing the Child, one of them looking up the Chimney, saw the Cradle wonderfully hanging about three yards high without and support; which being as strangely conveyed down again: they encouraged the Nurse, and leaving her in the House (though affrighted) they departed for the present.

CHAP. V.

How Mother Shipton whilst but very young at Nurse, was daily visited by Spirits, in divers Shapes and Forms; and what prancks they play'd during her abode there.

MOther Shipton now grew apace, and as her stature encreased, so did her deformity: Her supposed Father (the foul Fiend) omitted not a day wherein he visited not the House where she was, sometimes visibly in the form of a Cat, Dog, Rat, or Hog; at other times invisibly by noises so terrible, as it so affrighted the Nurse, that sometimes resolved to deliver up her charge, and forsake her habitation: sometimes, she came in a pleasant humour, either Singing or Playing on an Instrument, which was usually a Scotch Bag-pipe.

Her Nurse sometimes was in great perplexity, not knowing what was become of her, for an whole day together; but when she was in the greatest search after her, she saw her oftentimes drop through the floor of the House: Going out, upon her return, she many times found the Child stretcht out to a Prodigious length, taller than the tallest Man; and at other times as much decreast or shortned. The poor Woman's work for the Major part, was only to rectifie what these Spirits disordered about her House; the Chairs and Stools would frequently march up Stairs and down, and they usually plaid below at Ball

with the Trenchers and Dishes: Going to Dinner, the Meat was removed before she could touch a bit of it, which things, as they much troubled the Nurse, so they gave much satisfaction to Mother Shipton; as it appeared by her monstrous Smiles: Now and then to pacifie her Nurse when she saw her much vext hereat, she would say, be contented, there is nothing here will harm you.

To be short, the Nurse was so continually terrified by these apparitions, that she resolved to complain to the Parish; and having made known the truth of what had past, in commiseration to the Woman almost Distracted, they removed Mother Shipton to another place, where she was put to School, being of an Age now fitting for it.

CHAP. VI.

How Mother Shipton was put to School, Learning more in a day, then other Children in a Month: How she was Jeared by her School-fellows, for having such a Monstrous long Nose: and what prancks she plaid upon them, by way of Revenge: growing now very Famous.

MOther Shipton was now grown a lusty Girl; and as she was left to the care of the Parish, so the Parish took care that she should have the common sort of Learning; that is to say, Reading and Writing bestowed upon her. Coming to School, her Mistris began to instruct her, as other Children, begining with the Cris-cross-row as they call'd it, showing and naming only three or four Letters at first, but to the amazement and astonishment of her Mistris; she exactly Pronounced every Letter in the Alphabet without Leaching. Hereupon her Mistris shewed her a Primmer, which she Read as well at first sight, as any in the School, and so proceeded in any Book was shown her. As this produced wonder in her School-Mistris, so hatted and envy in her Comrades; some flouted her for her Monstrous long Nose; others endeavoured to beat her, and all strove to mischief her, but she [illegible] them not, revenging her self upon every one of them, that intended her harm. Some were pinch'd and no hand seen that did it; others were struck speechless when they were about to say their Lessons, not being able to utter a word; and none escaped from being served one

scurvy

scurby trick, or other. This so inraged the Parents of these Children, looking on Mother Shipton the sole cause hereof; that she was discharged the School, and so left to the wide World.

She hath been often seen when alone, to laugh heartily; at other times to talk by her self, uttering very strange riddles, which occasioned some of the more sober sort to converse with her, receiving such strange things from her, as required a long studdy to find out the meaning.

Never a day passed, wherein she related not something very remarkable, and required the most serious consideration. And now it was that People flockt to her far and near, (her fame was so great) to be resolved of their Doubts, all returning wonderfully satisfied in the Resolution of their questions.

CHAP. VII.

How several persons came to Mother Shipton, for her Predictions; and how a Rich Heire being deceived by her Maid, fell sick of Grief, and dyed.

And now Mother Shipton beginning to grow Famous in the World, for her notable Judgment in things to come: There resorted to her House a Number of People, of all sorts, both old and young, rich and poor; Especially, of the Female Sex, viz. Young Maids and Wenches, who have alwaies a great Itching desire to know when they shall be Married; as also, what manner of Husbands they shall have; to which she gave such satisfactory answers, both for the Persons and time, that no sooner could a young Maid get into the Trent, but She would presently Trott to Mother Shiptons, to be resolved of her doubt. Now, though she were not Mercenary her self, but refused great Gifts, when proffered unto her; yet did she keep a young Mench, who rather then fail, if they forgot to open their purse to her, she would remember to open her mouth to them, and tell them, that her dame Shipton, nor she, could not be maintained with thanks, but that the belly required meet to feed it: and that it was money which must the Mare to go. One day there came a certain young Heir thither, whose Father was sick, to be resolved by her, whether he should live or

dye,

dye; but Mother Shipton, could by no means be wrought upon to tell him any thing; whereupon he proffered the Maid great store of Money, if she could by any means perswade her dame, to fulfil his request; the wench greedy of Money, promised him fair; and that if he would come the next Morning, he should be certain to be resolved; in the mean time, she importuned her Dame with the most cunning Rhetorick that she could invent, but she was deaf to all intreaties, and would by no means be induced thereto, whereupon the wench resolved with her self, rather than to loose the Money, to give him an answer of her own intention; which the next Morning she performed in these words.

The Grave prepared hath a Room,
Prepare for Death, thy hour is Come.

The young Gentleman having received this answer, went home joyfully, hoping presently to reap the Golden Crop which his Father had sown, and to be in an instant, possessed of all his best estate, but the sequel proved quite contrary; for by that time he came home, great hopes of amendment appeared in his Father, who each day grew better and better, so that in a short time he became perfectly well. This unexpected recovery of the old man, struck such a dump in our young Heir, that he presently took his Bed, fell extream sick, and in a short time grew extraordinary ill, that all the Symptoms of a dying man appeared in him: The old man, who had cursed and cast all his life time for his Son, (having no more Children but he) was very desirous of his life, and to know whether he should recover; whereupon he sent to Mother Shipton about the same, who knowing by her Art, what her Maid had done, sufficiently chid her for the same: threatning upon such another offence, to turn her out of her service. In the mean time, the Messenger was come to her House, who having delivered his errant, was turned back with this answer.

For others Deaths who do gape out,
Their own unlook'r for, comes about:
Earth he did seek, e're long shall have
Of Earth his fill, with his Grave.

The old man having received this answer, was much troubled, as thinking his own Death predicted thereby, not imagining in the least, what his Son had done; but he was soon quit of that suspition, for within two dayes the young man dyed; when by a Servant (who knew the passages) he was informed the truth of the whole matter.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Mother Shiptons Propheſies concerning King Henry the Eighth's Journey into France; of Cardinal Wolſey, and other things.

About this time, ſome differences ariſing betwixt King Henry the Eighth, and the French King, great preparations of War were made in England, the Drums beating in every County, to ſummon Voluntary Valour to expreſs it ſelf, in Defence of their King and Country, many Heroick Spirits, who made Honour their Aime, not dreading any dangers for the attaining thereof, now Liſted themſelves Bellona's followers: ſo many appearing under Mars his Banner, that he who was furniſhed with Limbs and an Eſtate, to decline the Service was adjudged a Coward. There was then Living in the North, a young Heir, who was newly come to his Eſtate, one whoſe Tongue was all Fire, and his Heart all Ire, who would kill a hundreds with words, but durſt not adventure to do any thing in deeds. This Gallant being by ſome of his Equals, pricked on to make his appearance in the Fields of Mars, and not to lye Sleeping at home when Fame Summoned him forth to Action, he knew not what to do, in this caſe loath was he to looſe his loved Life, and yet the aſperſion of a Coward, though to a Coward himſelf, is of all things moſt odious; He therefore permitted them fate; that none ſhould be more willing then he, to ſpend his Blood in the quarrel of that Country, from whence he received his deareſt Life; but yet reſolved with himſelf, not to ſet one ſtep forward in that path of danger, till he had firſt conſulted with Mother Shipton, concerning what ſucceſs he ſhould have in his journey; if ſhe, he was reſolved by a feigned ſickneſs to evade, thinking it no Policy for a Man to part away with that Life in an inſtant, which with great coſt and care, had been many years in bringing up.

Hereupon he haſtens to our Northern Propheteſs, acquaints her with his condition, and very earneſtly deſires of her (as ſhe to whom nothing was unbid) that ſhe would unfold to him whether good or bad fortune ſhould be his attendant, in this his expedition. Mother Shipton though ſhe perceived his Sweepieſts Courage to be every way unanſwerable to that of a Souldier, yet foreknowing what would come to paſs, returned him this anſwer; which without more ado, fully ſa-

tiſied

[illegible] him to proceed, and perform what he had promised; the answer was this.

When the English Lyon shall set his paw on the Gallique shore, then shall the Lillies begin to drop for fear; There shall be much weeping and wailing amongst the Ladies of that Country; because the Princely Eagle shall joyn with the Lyon, to tread down all that shall oppose them, and though many Sagitaries shall appear in defence of the Lillies, yet shall they not prevail; because the dull Animal of the North shall put them to confusion; and though it be against his will, yet shall cause great shame unto them. Now shall the Mitred Peacock first begin to Plume, whose Train shall make a great show in the World for a time; but shall afterwards vanish away, and his great Honour come to nothing; which shall take its end at Kingston.

The Explanation of the Prophecy.

By the English Lyon was meant the King of England; and by setting his Paw on the Gallique Shore, the Landing of his Army in France, which not long after he did; by the Lillies beginning to drop for fear, was signifyed the great trouble and perplexity of the French, the Lillies being the Arms of France; the weeping and wailing amongst the Ladies of that Country, denotes the miseries and [illegible] incident to War, the Dwors, Famine, Destruction and [illegible] being inseparable Companions; by the Princely Eagle joyning with the Lyon, and treading down all that should oppose them, is meant Maximilian the German Emperor (whose Arms were the Eagle) who not only joyned in Amity with King Henry, but also took wages of him, and [illegible] him in his Wars as an hired Vaulbier; by the Sagitaries that appeared in defence of the Lillies, was meant the French Cavalry, the [illegible] strength of France, consisting of Horse-men, who appearing like Sagitaries, that is to say, half Men, and half Horses, gave Mother Shipton to use that expression; whereas it is said, yet they should not prevail, it fell out so accordingly; for notwithstanding all the oppositions of the French Armies, King Henry proceeded on vigorously, Conquering and taking several Towns of importance, as Tournay, Bullogn, &c. But to come to that which most nearly concerns the matter, viz. the success of our young Heir, in this expedition, which was him [illegible] unto him in these words, because the dull Animal of the North

shall put them to Confusion; and though it be against his will, yet shall cause great shame unto them: by the dull Animal of the North, was meant this fresh water Souldier, who according to the Prophecy, put the Frenchmen to confusion, and great shame; for pairing the Lists with King Henry, being mounted on a stately Horse, as both Armies confronted each other, he being in the Head of the Battle, just before the Charge, somebody striking his Horse, the Jade carried him by force upon the Enemy, with such violence, as put their Front into some disorder, which being perceived by our Men, they presently to seconded him, that in fine, the French very fairly ran away, leaving the English a glorious Victory, purchased with a little cost.

By this means was Mother Shiptons Prediction fulfilled to the disgrace of the French, and great praise of the young Gallant; for the rest of the Prophecy, the Interpretation thereof runs thus.

By the Mitred Peacock was intended Cardinal Wolsey, signified by that Bird, because of his great Pride, who being but a poor Butchers Son of Ipswich in Suffolk, grew to such height, that he thought himself superior to the other Nobles of the Land, living in such splendor as not to be parrelled, according to the Prophecy; Whose Train shall make a great show in the World; and whereas it is said, the Peacock shall then begin to Plume, so it was, that when King Henry had taken the City of Tournay in France, he made Wolsey Bishop thereof, who soon after rose to the highest degree of Honour a Subject could be capable of, which afterwards (as the Prophecy says) Vanished away, and his great Honour come to nothing: And lastly, whereas it is said, he should have his end at Kingstone; the Cardinal being told of this Prophecy, would never pass through the Town of Kingstone, though lying directly in the Road, from his own House to the Court, but afterwards being Arrested of High Treason, by the Earl of Northumberland and Sir Anthony Kingstone the Lieutenant of the Tower, sent unto him his very Name (remembring this Prophecy) which struck such a terror to his Heart, that he soon after expired.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Her Prophecy to the Abbot of Beverly, concerning the downfal of Abbys, Nunneries, Priories, &c. with other things.

MOther Shiptons Predictions coming thus effectually to pass, spread her Fame far wider than it was; insomuch, that many who before looked upon her as a cracket-brain'd Woman, now began to admire her, and to esteem of her words as Oracles. And as the nature of English People is, rather to desire to know what is to come, than to seek to rectifie what is done amiss; so the greatest part of her visitants, came only to be resolved of what she knew, would come to pass, of which number was the Abbot of Beverly, who fearing the downfal of Religious Houses, and a change of Religion then Professed, putting on the counterfeit Cloaths of a Lay-person, he came to Mother Shiptons, and knocking at the door, she being within, called to him, and said, come in Mr. Abbot, for you are not so much disguised, but the Fox may be seen through the Sheeps skin; it is not these Cloaths makes you a Lay-person, no more then a Long-Gown, makes a Man a Lawyer; come, take a Stool and sit down, for you shall not go away unsatisfied of what you desire, and thereupon she began to utter forth her Prophesies in this sort.

When the Cow doth ride the Bull,
Then Priest beware thy Scull.
And when the lower Shrubs do fall,
The great Trees quickly follow shall.
The Mitred Peacocks lofty pride,
Shall to his Master be a Guide.
And one great Court to pass shall bring,
What was neer done by any King.
The Poor shall Grieve to see that Day,
And who did Feast, must Fast and Pray.
Fate so Decreed their Overthrow,
Riches brought Pride, and Pride brought Wo.

These Prophesies were thus explained; by the Cow was meant King Henry, who gave the same, by reason of the Earldom of Richmond,

mond, which was his Inheritance: and the Bull betokeneth Queen Anne Bulloign, whom the King took to Wife, in the Room of Queen Katharine, her Father gave the Black Bulls head in his Cognizance, and was his Beast; and when the King had parted Queen Anne, then was fulfilled the second line of the Prophecy, viz. Then Priest beware thy Scull; for what a number of Priests Religious and Secular, lost their heads for offending of those Laws made to bring this matter to pass.

And when the Lower Shrubs do fall,
The great Trees quickly follow shall.
The Mitred Peacocks lofty pride,
Shall to his Master be a Guide.

His Cardinal Wolsey (who is here intended by the Mitred Peacock) in the height of his Pride, and haughtiness of his undertaking, intending to erect two fair Colledges, one at Ipswich where he was Born, the other at Oxford where he was Bred; and finding himself unable to endow them at his own Charges; he obtained Licence of Pope Clement the Seventh, Anno 1525, to suppress forty small Monasteries in England, and to lay their old Lands to his new Foundations, which was done accordingly, and the poor People that lived in them quietly out of doors, many of the Clergy were very much against the action of Wolseys, especially John Fisher Bishop of Rochester, alledging for the same an Apology out of Æsop, that the Iron Head of the Axe, craved a handle of the Wood of Oaks, only to cut off the several boughs of the Tree; but when it was a compleat instrumental Axe it felled all the Wood; applying it, That the Suppressing of those smaller Houses, would in fine, prove destructive to all the rest; which came to pass accordingly: for King Henry seeing the Cardinals power to extend so far as to suppress these lower Shrubs, he thought his Prerogative might stretch so far, as to fell down the Great Trees; and soon after dissolved the Priory of Christ's Church nigh Aldgate in London, now known by the name of Dukes-place, and which had the richest in Lands and Ornaments of all the Priories in London and Middlesex; and which was a fore-runner of the Dissolution of all the rest; and which not long after came to pass.

And one great Court to pass shall bring,
What was ne're done by any King.

By the Great Court, is meant the Parliament, the Supreamest Court of England; who in the Twenty seventh of King Henrys Reign, Anno 1539. To support the Kings States, and supply his wants, conferred on the Crown, all Religious Houses, which were not able clearly to expend above two hundred pounds a year; the great ones not long after following the same fortune of the smaller, which was never done (though attempted) by any King before.

The Poor shall Grieve to see that day.

The Abbots and Priors being most bountiful House-keepers, relieving all comers and goers, got themselves much reputation for their Hospitality.

And who did Feast, must Fast and Pray.

By the Dissolution of these Houses, many thousands were driven to seek their Fortunes in the wide Worlds, and become utterly exposed to want, when Monkish profession was without possession; many a young Nun probed an old Beggar, and were forced to sail for want of Victuals, who formerly had it probided for them to their hand.

Fate so Decreed their overthrow,
Riches brought Pride, and Pride brought wo.

The great Riches and pride of the Monks and Fryers was (no doubt) the main cause of their overthrow; for whatsoever was the pretence, questionless profit was the Rope which pulled these Religious Houses down.

All these things coming to pass before such time as this Abbot dyed, caused him to have a great esteem of Mother Shipton, and to value her Prophecies more then ordinary conjectures; though at the first, he could not tell what to make of her Ambiguous Lines, which like the Oracles formerly delivered at Delphos; rather brought one into a Labyrinth of confused conjectures than satisfied the expectation, until by the Clue of time, the Riddles were manifest, and that which at first seemed so hard, now appeared to the understanding, as easie; Whether he at present kindly thanked Mother Shipton, and liberally rewarded her Maid (who else would have put him in mind of his neglect) much admiring that she should be so clear-sighted, as to see through his counterfeit Dress; resolving afterwards to be more informed by her, concerning future events; he at that time took his solemn leave of her, and returned home.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

Her Prophecies concerning King Edward the Sixth: The Rebellion of the Commons: The Death of the Duke of Somerset, with other things.

NOt long had the Abbot been at home, but his Abby was hi[illegible] by some Instruments employed by the Lord Cromwel for th[illegible] purpose. He who knew what was intended by this Complement, thou[illegible] it not safe to strive against the Stream, and therefore quietly surren[illegible] his Monastry into the Kings hands. And now perceiving Mother Shiptons Prophecy plainly fulfilled, in the downfal of those Hou[illegible] which were judged Impregnable, against all the assaults and Mal[illegible] and time; Considering the strange Revolutions of so short a spa[illegible] he was very desirous to be more fully informed of the future. In th[illegible] Resolution he repairs again to Mother Shiptons, whom he now [illegible] more familiarly than he did before, making himself plainly known [illegible] to her; telling her that as what she had formerly spoken, he had [illegible] to be true in the event; so his Judgment perswades him, she [illegible] not ignorant of those things which were for the future to ensue, [illegible] therefore desired her she would not be nice in imparting of this [illegible] fore-knowledge unto him; for which so great favour, though it [illegible] more than his deserts could command, yet should there never in [illegible] be wanting a grateful tongue to acknowledge, and a grateful [illegible] be thankful unto her, for so great a Favour.

Mr. Abbot (said she) leave of Complementing, as more [illegible] Courtiers, and Lovers, and not agreeable to an old Woman, who [illegible] neither flatter, nor be flattered by any; and for what you [illegible] I shall not be squeamish to fulfil your request, let me therefore desire [illegible] to lend your attention, and thereupon (after some short pause) [illegible] thus began.

A Prince that never shall be Born,
Shall make the Shaved-Heads forlorn.
Then shall Commons rise in Arms,
And Womens Malice cause much harms.
O deadly Pride! O hateful Strife!
Brothers to seek each others Life.

Ambi[illegible]

Ambition shall so deadly spread,
The Griffin fierce shall loose his Head.
Soon after shall the Lyon dye,
And Mildness usher Cruelty.

These ten lines being Prophecies of the Actions in King Edwards Reign, for the Readers benefit, (before we proceed any further in her Predictions) we will unfold the meaning of them by themselves, that we may not too much burthen their Memory; but by variety add a pleasure to the Reading of them.

A Prince that never shall be born,
Shall make the Shaved Heads forlorn.

By the Prince that never shall be born, is meant King Edward the Sixth, of whom all reports do constantly run, that he was not by Natural Passage delivered into the World, but that his Mothers Body was opened for his Birth, that he dyed of the Incision the fourth day following; and by the Shaved Heads is understood the Monks Fryers, &c. who are said to be become forlorn: the Reformation beginning with the beginning of King Edwards Reign; and the Popes Priests put down, as his Supremacy was before.

Then shall Commons rise in Arms.

King Edward having set out certain Injunctions for the Reformation of Religion, as the Commissioners passed to divers places for the establishing of them, many scorns were cast upon them, and the farther they went from London, the People were more uncivil, so do they more rise into insolency and contempt; for in Cornwall the Commons flocked together, having killed one of the Commissioners, and albeit Justice was done to the offenders, the principal of them being Executed in several places, yet could not their holdings be beaten down with their severity, but that the mischief spread farther in Wiltshire, and Somerset-shire, where the People supposing that a Common-wealth could not stand without Commons bear down Inclosures, and laid Parks, and Fields Champion. The like Commotions followed in Sussex, Hamp-shire, Kent, Gloucester-shire, Warwick-shire, Essex, Hartford-shire, Leicester-shire, Worcester-shire, and Rutland-shire, but the greatest of all was in Devon-shire, and Norfolk: the one Headed by Henry Arundel Esquire, Governour of the Mount in Cornwall, the other by Robert Ket a Tanner of Windham in Norfolk: Those of Devon-shire, were accounted above ten thousand,

who

who with a close and smart Siege, Surrounded the City of Exeter, [illegible] they brought to extreme misery, having a patent For abroad, [illegible] Famine sorely raging within; insomuch, as they were fain to [illegible] Bran and Meal moulded up in Cleathes, for otherwise it would [illegible] stick together; at last the Rebels were routed from [illegible], by [illegible] Lord Privy Seal, with the loss of a Thousand of their Number, and soon after totally routed, at a place called Clut-heath. [illegible] of Norfolk, were judged to be more dangerous; both because [illegible] strength was great, being estimated to be above Twenty Thousand, as also the City of Norwich was a friend unto them, or at least [illegible] them no harm: This rude rout encamped on Monshold-hill, a place Impregnable in some sort, being near to Norwich, against [illegible] was sent the Marquess of Northampton, and afterwards the [illegible] of Warwick, who made many Sallies upon the Rebels with [illegible] success; had the Rebels kept in this Fort, they might have tired [illegible] the Earl, his Horse being utterly against them; but they relying [illegible] an old prophecy, came down into Damn Dale and quitted the Fort, [illegible] words of the prophecy were these.

The Country Knuffs, Hod, Dic, and Hic,
With clubs, and clouted Shone,
Shall fill up Damn-Dale with Blood,
Or slaughtered bodies soon.

[illegible] they Interpreted to be their Enemies Bodies, [illegible] probed of their [illegible] for the Earl setting upon them, after a [illegible] resistance, they were overcome, two thousand slain upon the [illegible] Ree with his Brother and nine others Executed, the rest taken [illegible] Mercy.

And Womens Malice cause much harms.

Lamentable was the effects occasioned by the malice of two [illegible] in this Kings Reign, which that you may the better [illegible] shall declare the Original grounds thereof. The King had two [illegible] Brothers to Queen Jane his deceased Mother, Edward Duke of [illegible] sel, Lord Protector, &c. and Thomas Lord Seymor Baron of [illegible] High Admiral of England: The Lord Sudly, had taken to [illegible] tharine Parr, Queen Dowager, last Wife to King Henry the [illegible] The Duke had Married the Lady Ann Stanhope, a woman for [illegible] Imperfections intollerable: This Woman did hate such [illegible] hate, first against the Queen Dowager for light causes, and [illegible]

quarrels; especially, for that the bad Precedency of place before her; that albeit, the Queen Dowager dyed by Child-birth, yet would not her Malice either dye, or decrease, but hated the Lord Sudly, for her sake; and left buzzing fears and jealousies in her Husbands Ears, (who was of an easie belief) that within few days the Lord Sudly was Arrested and sent to the Tower, and in a very short time after Condemned by Act of Parliament; and within few days after his Condemnation, a Warrant was sent, under the hand of his Brother the King, whereby his Head was delivered to the Axe; which verified what was before prædicted.

O deadly Pride! O hateful Strife!
Brothers to seek each others Life.

O Wives! the most sweetest Poyson, the most skilled Evil in the World! certainly, as it is true, as Syracides saith, that there is no Malice to the Malice of a Woman: so no Mischief wanted where a Malicious Woman bears sway; a Woman was first given to Man for a Comforter, but not for a Councellor, much less a Controuler and Director; and therefore, in the first Sentence against Man, the cause is exprest, Because thou obeyest the voice of thy Wife. And doubtless the Protector, by being thus ruled to the Death of his Brother, seemed with his left hand to have cut off his right; for thereby he left himself now unguarded from the Malice of his Enemies, the Earl of Warwick, &c. who being ambitious of ingrossing all power into his own hands, soon wrought the confusion of the Duke, as it follows in the Prophecy.

Ambition shall so deadly spread,
The Griffin fierce shall lose his Head.

For the Earl of Warwick espying opportunity, shewing himself, and knowing that in troublesome times, the obedience of great Persons is most easily shaken, drew about eighteen of the Privy-Council to knit with him against the Lord Protector: There he did to wind up his purpose, that they withdrew from the Court, fell to private Consultations, and so ordered the matter, that at length they brought the Protector upon the Scaffold, where in fine he had his Head cut off, figured here by the Name of the Griffin.

Soon after shall the Lyon dye,
And Mildness Usher Cruelty.

By the Lyon is meant King Edward, who survived his Uncle the Duke of Somerset, not above two years grief for his death (as it is generally

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generally conceived) bringing him into a Consumption, though some have reported him to be poysoned; soon after his Death Pats and Popery was reflored again by Queen Mary, for which cause many afterwards fryed in the flames, verifying the last verse.

And Mildness Usher Cruelty.

CHAP. XI.

Her Prophecies concerning the Death of the Lady Jane Grey; the Burning of the Martyrs; of Wyats Rebellion; the Death of Queen Mary; and of Cardinal Pool.

BY Parents too Ambitious Pride,
The Scaffold shall with Blood be dy'd.
A Vertuous Lady then shall dye,
For being raised up too high;
Her Death shall cause anothers Joy,
Who will the Kingdom much annoy.
Miters shall rise, Miters come down,
And streams of Blood shall Smithfield drown.
England shall joyn in League with Spain,
Which some to hinder strive in vain.
The Lyonels from Life retires,
And Potifical Priest expires.

This Prophecy is peculiarly applyed to the Reign of Queen Mary, and may be Interpreted after this manner.

By Parents too Ambitious Pride,
The Scaffold shall with blood be dy'd.

This is meant by the Lady Jane Grey Daughter to the Duke of Suffolk, who having Married the Lord Gilford Dudly, Son to the Duke of Northumberland, the ambition of Northumberland was so great, that he practised much on King Edwards tender years, who now was much weakned with sickness, that excluded his two Sisters, the Lady Mary, and Lady Elizabeth, he conveyed the Crown to the Lady Jane, by that which we may call the Testament of King Edward, and the Will of the Duke of Northumberland. But the Commons taking part with

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the Lady Mary, notwithstanding, the Duke went with great Forces against her, and his Souldiers disserting him, he was forced to tack about, and with an unwilling mind Proclaim her Queen, whom in his heart he hated above all others.

A Vertuous Lady then shall dye,
For being raised up too high.

The Lady Jane Grey, who out of dutifulness to her Parents, assuming the Title of Queen upon her, for her offence, lost her Head: This Lady Jane was a Woman of most rare and incomparable perfections; for besides her excellent beauty, adorned with all variety of Vertues, as a clear Sky with Stars, as a princely Diadem with Jewels; she was the mirror of her time, for her Religion and Education in the knowledge of the Liberal Sciences, and skill in Languages, for in Theology, in Philosophy, in all the Liberal Arts, in the Latine and Greek Tongues, and in the Vulgar Languages of divers near Nations, she far exceeded all of her Sex, and every one of her years.

Her Death shall cause anothers joy,
Who will the Kingdom much annoy.

The Death of the Lady Jane was supposed to be a rejoycing to Queen Mary, and who by restoring Popery, and the Persecutions that the Professors of the Gospel suffered in her time, is said to bring the Kingdom to annoy.

Miters shall rise, Miters come down,
And streams of blood shall Smithfield drown.

By the Miters are meant the Bishops, who in the Change of Religion found great Change; very few of them keeping their Seats wherein they had been seated by King Edward the Sixth, the Names of the Bishops thus put down, were these, Cranmer Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, Ridly Bishop of London, Poynet Bishop of Winchester, Holgate Arch-Bishop of York, Bush Bishop of Bristol, Bird Bishop of Chester, Hooper Bishop of Worcester and Gloucester, Barlo Bishop of Bath and Wells, Story Bishop of Chichester, Ferrar Bishop of St. Davids, Coverdale Bishop of Exeter, Taylor Bishop of Lincoln, and Harley Bishop of Hereford; in the room of these Bishops thus put down, several Bishops were raised, as Cardinal Pool made Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, Bonner Bishop of London, Gardiner Bishop of Winchester, Heath Arch-Bishop of York, Holeman Bishop of Bristol, Gates Bishop of Chester, Brook Bishop of Gloucester, Pates Bishop of Worcester, Bourn Bi-

shop of Bath and Wells, Christopherson Bishop of Chichester, Morgan Bishop of St. Davids, Turberville Bishop of Exeter, White Bishop of Lincoln, and Parsew Bishop of Hereford.

And streams of Blood shall Smithfield drown.

Great was the number of Martyrs burned in Smithfield in this Queens Reign, under the Bloody hands of Bonner Bishop of London, and Dr. Story Dean of St. Pauls; the first Persecuting by whole sale, the second by retail; the names of all those who in this place thus testified the Faith by the loss of their Lives, would be too long here to recite: the chief of them were, Mr. John Rogers, Mr. John Bradford, Mr. Robert Glover, &c.

England shall joyn in League with Spain,
Which some to hinder strive in vain.

Queen Mary intending to match her self with Philip King of Spain, the bruit thereof being spread amongst the people, was by them ill resented, as dreading to be under the yoak of a Stranger; to hinder the same (amongst others) Sir Thomas Wyat, a Kentish Knight, took Armes, with a great party assisting him. The Queen hearing of his Commotion, sent a Herauld to him to desist, which he refusing to do, she resolves upon force, sending the Duke of Norfolk with five hundred Londoners against him; but these Souldiers bearing more affection to Wyats cause than the Queens, forsook their Leader, and their Loyalty together, and joyned themselves to Wyats Faction; who much elated with this supply, presently resolves for London, promising to himself easie entrance into that City, and hearty entertainment therein; but contrary to his expectation, coming to Southwark, he found all the Lowers of the Tower, and the tops of the square Steeples near the Bridge-foot on the other side, planted with Ordinance against him, so that both Church and State threatned his ruine; so that seeing no good to be done there, with a swift March (having the Darkness of the Night for his Coverture) he hasteth to Kingston, passeth the River, and comes to Knights-bridge, before almost any had notice of his motion.

Here he divides his Army into two parts, Five hundred of them wheels down towards White-Hall, but could not force their passage into it; himself with the rest of the Army went directly to Charing-Cross, where he met with some opposition, but nothing daunted thereat, he marched directly down the Strand and Fleet-street, and coming to Ludgate promised himself entrance into the City, but finding the Gate clos'd

close shut, and well fortified against him, with Men and Ammunition, his hopes then began to fail him; retreating to Temple-bar, he was faced with some Horse, where after a short Fight, he submitted himself Prisoner, being first carried to White-Hall to be examined, from thence to the Tower, and soon after to the Scaffold, where he received the rewards of his Rebellion.

The Lyoness from Life retires,
And Pontificial Priest Expires.

By the Lyoness is meant Queen Mary, who having Reigned five years and some odd months, dyed of a Dropsie, though others say of Grief for the absence of her Husband King Philip, and others again, for Calice (taken not long before) and that she could say if after she was dead they ripped her up, they would find Calice written on her Heart.

The Pontificial Priest signified Cardinal Pool, who expired within few hours after the Death of Queen Mary. This Prelate was of princely extraction, his Mother Margaret being Daughter to George Duke of Clarence; when he was young he was brought up together with Queen Mary, and being a zealous Catholick during King Edwards Reign, suffered a voluntary exile for the same; when the Marriage with Prince Philip and Queen Mary was made up, he returned into England, was made Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, more moderate than some other of his fellow Bishops, having a tabourable inclination towards the Protestants: He survived the Queen but few hours, and was buryed in his own Cathedral at Canterbury, with this short and modest Epitaph on his Monument, DEPOSITUM CARDINALIS POLI.

CHAP. XII.

Her Propheſies concerning the Reign of Queen Elizabeth; the change of Religion; the attempts of the Papists, upon the Queen; the Spanish Invasion; the burning of Pauls-Steeple; the Death of the Queen of Scots; the reducing Ireland; the beheading the Earl of Essex, &c.

THe Lyon fierce being dead and gone,
A Maiden Queen shall Reign anon.

Thoſe who ſighed, then ſhall ſing,
And the Bells ſhall Changes Ring.
The Papal power ſhall bear no ſway,
Romes traſh ſhall hence be ſwept away.
The Locuſts ſent from the ſeven Hills,
The Engliſh Roſe ſhall ſeek to kill.
The Weſtern Monarks Wooden Horſes,
Shall be deſtroyed by the Drakes Forces.
Troynobant's Triumphant Spire,
Shall be conſum'd with Flames of Fire.
More wonders yet! a Widowed Queen,
In England ſhall be headleſs ſeen.
The Harp ſhall give a better ſound,
An Earl without a Head be found.
Soon after ſhall the Engliſh Roſe,
Unto a Male her place diſpoſe.

These lines being a Prophecy of the moſt remarkable Actions during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, are to be interpreted after this manner.

The Lyon fierce being Dead and gone,
A Maiden Queen ſhall Reign anon.

Queen Mary is here meant by the fierce Lyon; ſo called, not ſo much for the Cruelty done by Her, as by the Biſhops and Prieſts was done under her; for take her in her ſelf, ſecluded from bloody Counſellors, and ſhe was a moſt Merciful, Pious, Juſt Princeſs; but in reſpect of the blood that was ſhed, and the Perſecutions then ſuffered, ſhe is here termed a fierce Lyon: After whom is ſaid, A Maiden Queen to Reign anon, meant by Queen Elizabeth, one who was the Miracle of her Sex and Age, who for above forty years, to the admiration of all by it ſelf, mannaged the affairs of this Kingdom; having when ſhe began, few Friends that durſt help, and leaving no Foes when ſhe died that could hurt her; acted her part here ſo well while here ſhe Reigned, that Hiſtory can ſcarcely afford us one Prince to be matched to her Fame, in all conſiderable particulars.

Thoſe who ſighed then ſhall ſing,
And the Bells ſhall Changes Ring.

Many who fate and ſighed in the days of Queen Mary by reaſon of the hot Perſecution, being forced to forſake their Houſes, becauſe they would not forſake their Religion; now that Queen Elizabeth began to Reign, their mourning was turn'd into joy, their ſighing into ſinging; returning from their exile, with Pſalms of Thankſgiving in their mouthes: where their Bells rang ſuch Changes in Religion, that the Maſs was put down, and the Common-Prayer ſet up: Popery baniſhed and Reformation eſtabliſhed; the Miniſters of the Goſpel advanced, and the Schabelling Prieſts, Monks, and Fryers, depreſſed.

The Papal power ſhall bear no ſway;
Romes traſh ſhall hence be ſwept away.

Soon after the Queens coming to the Crown, a Parliament began at Weſtminſter, wherein the Laws of King Henry the Eighth, againſt the See of Rome were renewed, and thoſe of King Edward the Sixth, in favour of the Proteſtants revived, and the Laws by Queen Mary made againſt them, repealed: Uniformity of Prayer, and Adminiſtration of Sacraments was enacted, with a Reſtitution of firſt Fruits and Tenths to the Crown; and the Queen acknowledged to be the only and Supream Governour of her Kingdoms: The people in each place beating down Superſtitious Pictures and Images, which blind and miſguided zeal had ſet up.

The Locuſts ſent from the ſeven Hill,
The Engliſh Roſe ſhall ſeek to Kill.

By the Locuſts are meant the Prieſts, Fryers and Jeſuits, who ſpread all the World over in greater numbers than the Locuſt did in the Land of Egypt; and by the ſeven Hills is meant Rome, which is built upon ſeven Hills; and by the Engliſh Roſe is ſignified Queen Elizabeth, whom the Prieſts and Jeſuits by their Inſtruments did often attempt to kill; ſo that if we ſeriouſly conſider her Reign, we ſhall ſcarcely find any Prince, whoſe Life was ſo often attempted as hers, of which to give you ſome examples would not be impertinent to our purpoſe, and firſt in her Sifters Reign; Stephen Gardiner Biſhop of Wincheſter, and other Romaniſts, offended with her Religion, ſo wrought with Queen Mary, ſuggeſting that ſhe was conſenting to Wyats inſurrection, that ſhe was ſent Priſoner to the Tower, and (as it is ſaid) a Warrant

rant intended to be ſealed for her Execution, had not King Philip in-
tercerded. After ſhe came to the Crown ſhe was as incident to tro-
bles as the Month April is to ſhowers, Spain, France, and Scotland
combining againſt her, Pope Pius Quintus by his Bull depoſes her, b
proſecution whereof the Earls of Northumberland and Weſtmorela
riſe up in Rebellion, being to have been aſſiſted by the Duke D' Al
out of the Low-Countries, but out of theſe troubles ſhe was deliver
by their Confuſion. After theſe Leonard Dakers, ſecond Son
William Lord Dakers of Gelleſland, endeavoured to bring her in
trouble, being intruſted by her with competent Forces, which he inte
ing to have imployed to her detriment, failed in his hopes and powe
and brought both ſhame and ruine to himſelf. Next did Thomas
Edward Stanley, younger Sons to the Earl of Darby, with ſeve
others plot againſt her; all which ended in their Ruine and her ſafe
Theſe failing, Captain Stukley promiſed to perform wonders agai
her, but his Mountains proved not ſo much as Mole-hills, he bei
Slain in Barberry, his deſign failed. But to ſpeak of perſonal a
tempts againſt her, one Somervile drew his Sword in the Court
have Slain her, Doctor Parry a Spaniolized Italian intended to ha
Piſtoled her as ſhe walked in the privy Garden: Savage, Windſo
Salisbury, Tilney, and others, Conſpired to kill her, the which th
waited ſeveral times to effect: one William Stafford, by the inſtig
tion of the French Ambaſſador, undertook to kill her: Doctor Lop
one of her Swarn Phyſitians, for a ſum of Money, engaged to Poy
her: and to conclude all, one Edward Squire formerly belonging
her Stable, with a mortiferous confection Poyſoned the Pomel of h
Saddle, when ſhe was Riding out; From all which notwithſtanding
though ſhe were malitiouſly Poyſoned, ſhe was miraculouſly preſerv
and dyed in peace; maugre all the Malice of her Enemies.

The Weſtern Monarchs Wooden Horſes,
Shall be deſtroy'd by the Drakes Forces.

By the Weſtern Monarchs Wooden Horſes, is meant the King
Spains great Armado, in the year 1588, by them termed Invinci
though the ſucceſs of it anſwered not the Name, being by Sir Fran
Drake and others, brave Sons of Neptune, and Souldiers of Ma
met withal, Fought with, and really banquiſht, moſt of them fo

and the rest destitute and scatter'd, being Chased by our Ships past the 57 degree of Northern Latitude, and there left to be pursued by hunger and cold, a victory so remarkable, that time, nor age, will ever wear the remembrance thereof away.

Troy novant's Triumphant Spire,
Shall be consum'd in Flames of Fire.

By Troy novant is meant London, which in ancient writings is called Troy novant; and the Triumphant Spire, signifies Pauls-steeple, which in the year 1561 the fourth of June, strangely fell on Fire, burning for the space of five full hours, in which time it melted all the Lead off the Church, only the Stone Arches escaping the fury thereof; sundry causes were attributed by sundry persons of this Fire; some that it was casually blasted with Lightning; others that it was mischievously done by Art Magick; and others (which was most likely) done by the negligence of a Plummer carelessly leaving his coals therein. The Queen was much grieved for this mischance, but by her bounty, the Cities liberality, and a contribution from the Clergy, it was afterwards repaired, only the blunt Tower had not the top thereof sharpened into a Spire as before.

More Wonders yet! a Widowed Queen,
In England shall be Headless seen.

The Widdowed Queen signifies the Queen of Scots, the Mother of King James, who was Beheaded at Fotheringhay-Castle, some say by the privity, others to the great discontent of Queen Elizabeth: A Lady of a sharp Wit, undaunted Spirit, comely Person, Beautiful Face, Majestick presence, a fluent Orator, and an excellent Poet, as may appear by several things now extant; amongst others of her Verses, this was one, which she wrote with a pointed Diamond in a window, during her Imprisonment in Fotheringhay-Castle.

From the top of all my Trust,
Mishap hath laid me in the Dust.

She was Beheaded the ------ day of ----- Anno 1587, and was first Buryed in the Quire of Peterborough, afterwards by her Son King James, solemnly removed from thence to Westminster; where in the South-side of the Chappel of King Henry the Seventh, he erected a stately Monument to her Memory.

The Harp shall give a better Sound.

The Harp signifies Ireland, as being the Armes of that Comm
which Queen Elizabeth by reducing to a better obedience, made
give a better Sound, that is, made it more civilized, and profita
to the Exchequer then ever before.

An Earl without a Head be found,

This was spoken of the Earl of Essex, one who was the fabour
of the Queen, and darling of the people; two things which seldo
come together, and yet could not both of them protect him from t
Scaffold, but that thereon he lost his Head.

Soon after shall the English Rose,
Unto a Male her place Dispose.

By the English Rose is meant Queen Elizabeth, as we said before
by whose Death, the Right and Title to the Crown, came to Jame
the Sixth, King of Scotland, as lineally descended from Margar
the Eldest Daughter to King Henry the Seventh; the Issue of
failing by the Death of Queen Elizabeth: and here is to be remem
bred, the Policy of King Henry the Seventh, who having t
Daughters, Married the eldest of them to the King of Scotland, a
the Youngest to the King of France, that if his Issue Male should ha
pen to fail (as it afterwards did) then Scotland might wait up
England as the greater Kingdom, and not England upon France as t
lesser: besides there was an old Prophecy, which intimated K
James's coming to the English Crown: for when King Edward t
First baraced Scotland, amongst other things, he brought from the
their Royal Chair, (still preserved at the Abby in Westminster) up
which Chair these Verses were writ.

If Fates go right, where e're this Chair is Pight,
The Regal Race of Scots shall Rule the Place.

Which by the Coronation of King James there performed, ma
good the words of the Prophecy.

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CHAP. XI.

The Prophecies of the Reign of King James, his Uniting England and Scotland, his Peaceable Reign, a Learned time, the Powder-Treason, the Marriage with the Prince Elector, and Lady Elizabeth; the Death of Prince Henry.

THe Northern Lyon over Tweed,
The Maiden Queen shall then succeed,
And joyn in one two Mighty States,
Janus then shall shut his Gates.
Mars shall yield to Mercury,
All things tend to Prosperity.
Hells power by a fatal Blow,
Shall seek the Land to overthrow,
Which by mistake shall be reverst,
And Heads from Shoulders be dispers't.
The British Olive next shall twine
In Marriage with the German Vine.
The Ninth to Death his power shall yield,
Death Conquers all, he wins the Feild.

Next follows the remarkable actions of King James's Reign, prædicted in the foregoing lines, which may be thus explained.

The Northern Lyon over Tweed,
The Maiden Queen shall then succeed,
And joyn in one, two Mighty States.

By the Northern Lyon, is meant King James; and by the Maiden Queen, Queen Elizabeth, whom King James, being King of Scotland succeeded in the English Crown, joyned thereby the two Nations of England and Scotland; which had been often attempted before, not only by Conquest, but by Marriage; once by Conquest, by King Edward the First, who subdued their Armies, took their Strong places, and made their Nobles yield him obeisance; yet what they thus lost by him, they recovered of his son King Edward the Second;

the other of Marriage, was by King Henry the Eighth, who endeavoured to have matched his Son, Prince Edward, with the Heiress of Scotland, and had proceeded very far therein, when Death cut him off; and though afterwards attempted by the Duke of Somerset, Lord Protector, and the Scots beaten at Musselborough-field, yet all would not prevail; God having decreed their union to be afterwards, in a more peaceable manner.

Janus then shall shut his Gates.

Janus was one of the Gods belonging to the ancient Romans; whose Temple was never shut but in the days of Peace, which happened not above twice, in the space of two Thousands years: King James's Reign being a very peaceable time, when Swords rusted in their Sheaths for want of using them; Mother Shipton in her Prophesie alludes thereto.

Mars shall yield to Mercury,
All things tend to prosperity.

War shall give place to Peace, Fighting to Pleading, the Sword to the Gown, the Pike to the Pen, Barbarism to Learning, &c. this Peace shall cause Plenty, Plenty work Prosperity, &c.

Hells power by a fatal Blow,
Shall seek the Land to overthrow.
Which by mistake shall be reverst,
And Heads from Shoulders be dispers't.

These Lines have reference to the horrid Powder Plot, which was to have been acted by some desperate Papists, to have blown up the Parliament House with Gun-powder, and therein our Religion, Laws, King, Prince, Peers, Bishops, Judges, Knights, and Burgesses, all designed to Destruction: The chief actors herein were, Robert Catesby, Thomas Percy, Sir Everard Digby, Francis Thresham, Robert Winster, Thomas Winter, John Wright, Christ. Wright, Ambrose Rookwood, Robert Key, John Grant, Guido Fauz, and Bates Catesbies man, Gentlemen most of Ancient Families, some of plentiful Fortunes, but all of resolute Spirits: These being suggested by the Devil, and seconded by his Agents, the Jesuits, to bring their purpose about;

about, hired a Vault under the Parliament-House wherein they stowed Thirty six Barrels of powder, with several Iron-Bars, to make the force of the Fire more effectual, all which they covered with Billets, thinking thereby to have covered their Design from being discovered: On the Fifth of November, the day of the Parliaments first sitting, was the time appointed, to put their Design in Execution; but providence had ordered it otherwise, that those who intended mischief, should taste the effects of it; on the Evening before, came to the Lord Monteagle a strange Letter, from a strange hand, by a strange Messenger; without Date to it, or Name at it, and (to outward appearance) sence in it? A Letter which when it was opened, was even still Sealed, such the affected obscurity therein: The Letter contained these words,

My Lord,

OUt of the Love I bear to some of your Friends, I have a care of your Preservation; therefore I would advice you, as you tender your Life, to devise some excuse to shift off your attendance at this Parliament: For God and Man have concurred to punish the wickedness of this time. And think not slightly of this Advertisement, but retire your self into your Country, where you may expect the Event in safety: for though there be no appearance of any stir, yet I say, they shall receive a terrible Blow this Parliament, and yet they shall not see who hurts them: This Counsel is not to be Contemned, because it may do you good, and can do you no harm; for the danger is past so soon as you have burnt the Letter; and I hope God will give you Grace to make good use of it: To whose Holy Protection I commend you.

This Letter being communicated to the King, he expounds the mystical Blow, to be meant by Gun-powder, and thereupon commanded the Rooms under the Parliament House to be search't, where the Mystery of Iniquity was quickly discovered, some of the Traytors taken in London, others in the Country, the hands of Justice overtaking them, they became examples of Justice, and tasted of that Cup (though not with that Cruelty) which they intended others should have drank of.

The British Olive next shall twine,
In Marriage with the German Vine.

By the British Olive, is meant the Lady Elizabeth, Daughter to King James; and by the German Vine, the most Illustrious Prince Frederick, Count Palatine of the Rhine; this Lady Elizabeth was enriched with all the endowments both of Body and Mind, which make to the compleating of a Princess; most dearly beloved of the English, as one that deserved well of all; hear a Wit of her thus complaining.

Most sweet Elizabeth! that happy Name,
If we lost nothing else by losing thee,
So dear to England is, we are to blame
If without Tears and Sighs we parted be.

They were Married with great Solemnity at Westminster, February 14, Anno 1612.

The Ninth to Death his Power shall yield.
Death Conquers all, he wins the Field.

This is meant of Prince Henry, who is called the Ninth, in regard that if he had Lived till King James Dyed, he would have been the Ninth King of that Name, since the Conquest: He was a Prince of most excellent parts, not wanting any thing wherewith Nature and Art could enrich him; of a very pious Disposition, never heard by any alive to swear an Oath, for which Arch-Bishop Abbot commended him in his Funeral Sermon, the Prince being wont to say, That he knew no Game or Value to be wone or lost, that could be worth an Oath. He Dyed of an extraordinary burning Feaver, being generally Lamented of the whole Land.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

The Prophesies of the Reign of King Charles the First, his Marriage with France, the Murther of the Duke of Buckingham, the Scottish Troubles, of the Long Parliament, and Bloody War ensuing after the execrable Murther of the King.

MOther Shipton having proceeded thus far in her Prophesies, broke off abruptly with a deep sigh, the tears trickling down her cheeks, accompanied with the wringing of her hands, as if some extraordinary misehance had befallen her. The Abbot wondered greatly what should be the cause of so suddain an alteration, having observed all along before a setled composedness in her countenance, and now to break out into such exclamations: He therefore thus said unto her, Mother Shipton, it is more then some ordinary matter which hath made you to break out into this sudden passion, and if it may not be troublesome unto you, I shall desire, that as hitherto you have not been scrupulous in revealing those secrets unto me, which have wrought in me both wonder and amazement, so that now you will not so abruptly break off, as to leave me in suspence of the cause of your sorrow; Ah Sir. Abbot (said she) who can with dry Eyes repeat what must next ensue, or but think upon it without a Heart full of Agony, to see Vertue trampled on, and Vice exalted; Beggars on Horse-back, and Princes on Foot; the Innocent Condemned, and the Blood-thirsty go Free. But since my promise binds me to fulfil your request, I shall proceed where I left.

The Crown then fits the White Kings Head,
Who with the Lillies soon shall wed;
Then shall a Peasants Bloody Knife,
Deprive a great Man of his Life.
Forth from the North shall Mischief blow,
And English Hob shall add thereto.
Then shall the Council great Assemble,
Who shall make great and small to tremble.
Mars shall rage as he were Wood,
And Earth shall drunken be with Blood.
The White King then (O grief to see)
By Wicked Hands shall Murdered be.

Then

These Lines are so plain, relating to the Actions of the late Ti as shall need no Oedipus to explain them; however as we have long made several Comments upon her Text, we shall here like proceed in the same Method as we did before.

The Crown then fits the White Kings Head.

By the White King, is meant King Charles the First, so called only in respect of the purity and uprightness of his Life, signifie White; but also that at the time of his Coronation he was Cloath White, which some venemous tongues have since urged against That he was not Crowned as other Kings, as if Princes migh have the same liberty as meaner persons, to assume what coloured they list to wear to themselves.

Who with the Lillies soon shall wed.

Somewhat before King James's Death a Marriage was concl on betwixt Prince Charles, and the Lady Henrietta Maria, Daughte that Martial Prince Henry the fourth King of France; but before Consummation thereof, King James Dyed, not long after his Fu rals were over, she was brought into England, and solemnly Mar to King Charles, who is hereupon said to wed the Lillies, the Li being the Armes of France.

Then shall a Peasants Bloody Knife,
Deprive a great Man of his Life.

This is spoken of the Duke of Buckingham, the greatest Fa favour of those times, and thereupon (as it is most commonly se most hated of the people; who laid the blame of all miscarriages the State upon him; right or wrong he was sure to undergo censure: Being made General for the Relief of Rochel, then Be ed by the French Forces; before he Imbarked at Portsmouth, he most villanously Stabbed by one Felton a discontented Officer in Army; who was so far from flying for the same, that though he m have passed away undiscovered, he boldly avowed himself to be the that did it; alledging, That he had therein done his Country g Service; but before his Death was better principled, and made sen of the heinousness of the Sin of Murther, recanting his former e nious principles, and Dying very penitently, being Hanged in Ch at Portsmouth, Anno 1627.

Forth from the North shall mischief blow,
And English Bob shall add thereto.

This Prophesie alludes to that Ancient Proverb, From the cold North all ill comes forth; and may be understood of our troubles commencing in 1639, taking their original rise from Scotland, and fomented by several Factious Spirits in England, the Dragon of Presbytery beginning then to appear in its own colours, the Kirk of Scotland having so high an opinion of its own purity, that it participated more of Moses his platform in the Mount, than other Protestant Churches, being a Reformed Reformation; so that the practice thereof might be divertory to others, and she fit to give, not take, write, nor receive Copies from any Neighbouring Church, desiring that all others were like unto them, save only in their afflictions. Hereupon they stood so high upon their pantoffles, that they refused the Common-prayer, disclaimed their Bishops, raised Tumults, and under pretence of defending the Scotish Kirk, raised a War against the English State, the benom of which Poyson so infected the veins of the English, who followed this Scotish President, that it brake forth into a most bitter War, and ended not, but with the death of many thousands of people.

Then shall the Council great Assemble,
Who shall make great and small to tremble.

By the great Council is meant the long-lasting Parliament, to known to all posterity, for the remarkable transactions therein; It began November the 3d. 1640, and may more properly be said to be the Parliament that wrought Wonders, then that in the time of King Henry the Third, which had the same appellation. By them fell the wise Stafford, and Reverend Laud, by them was Episcopacy voted down, and Presbytery voted up; by them was the Common-prayer denyed, and the directory exalted: they were the first that brought that strange Riddle into the world, that a Man might Fight for, and against his King; by them was the Oath Ex Officio condemned, and the Covenant (far worse) applauded; in sum, by them was the Church and State turned topsey turvey; but this cannot be reported of all amongst them, many of them hated their doings, dissented from them, and suffered by them.

Mars shall rage as he were wood,
And Earth shall drunken be with blood.

To repeat all the Skirmishes, Fights, and Battles that h
happened betwixt the Kings and Parliaments Forces, (here sum
by this Prophesie) would of it self require a Volume, in fo
which, viz. that at Marston-more, eight thousand Men were k
at a time, so that the Earth might well be said to be drunken
their Blood; and which is the more pity, was shed by Englishm
one Country, Citizens against Citizens, Neighbours against N
bours, nay, one Kinsman against another, and prosecuted with
greatest rigour that might be, according to that of the Poet.

The highest fury Reigns in Civil War,
And Country-men in fight most Cruel are,

As was verified all a long during our unnatural Civil-War, w
holding out with more obstinacy, fighting more eagerly, nay in
Execution more bloody then they!

The White King then (O grief to see)
By wicked hands shall Murthered be.

Spoken concerning the Execrable Murther of that pious Pr
King Charles the First, the most Renowned for piety, prudence
patience; of all his Contemporary Princes throughout the W
World; of whom when all is said that can be spoken, yet don
come far short of his deserved praises: I shall therefore sum up
with this Epitaph made on him by a Learned Pen.

He that can spell a Sigh, and read a Tear,
Pronounce amazement, and accent wild Fear;
Having all Grief by Hearts; He, only he,
Is fit to Write and Read thy Elegy.
Unvalued Charles! thou art so hard a Text,
Writ in one Age, not understood i'th' Next.

CH

CHAP. XV.

The Reign of King Charles the Second; the Usurpation of Cromwell; the strange Confusions of a Democrital Government; the Restauration of the King; the great Sickness; the Burning of the City of London.

THe White King Dead, the Wolf shall then,
With Blood possess the Lyons Den,
But Death shall hurry him away,
Confusion shall a while bear sway:
But Fate to England shall restore,
A King to Reign as heretofore.
Mercy, and Justice too, likewise,
He in his time shall exercise,
Great Death in London shall be though
And Men on tops of Houses go.

These Prophesies being all fulfilled in the Memory of Man, and so well known unto the World, we shall be the briefer in the explanation of them.

The White King dead, the Wolf shall then,
With Blood possess the Lyons Den.

By the White King (as we said before) is meant King Charles the First; and by the Wolf Oliver Cromwel, is termed by reason of his Bloody disposition; that Wolf being hidden under greedy and tabernacle of all others; and therefore fitly assembled to Cromwel, whose condition was such that he left no means unattempted, until he had got into the Lyons-den, that is to say until he had attained the sole Government; which being done, he then plucked the Sothers down by which he had mounted, turning the Rump out of doors, making them his Servants, who were formerly his Masters, crucifying his cruelty upon Cavaliers, which he deemed double policy, as being thereby rid of his Enemies, and enriching his Masters with their [illegible], though it were in effect but Murther and Robbery, and proclaimed him to be a Blood-thirsty-Tyrant.

But Death shall hurry him away.

Very remarkable was the day in which the Protector Dyed, [illegible] the Third of September Anno 1658, wherein the Wind was so [illegible]lent, that it oberthrew many Houses, tore up many Trees by [illegible] Roots, tumbled down Chimneys, and unreav'd Barns and Stables; but as it is a very ill wind that blows none good, so with all [illegible] hurt this Wind did, it made some recompence, in blowing this [illegible] Tyrant away, which made the people so little sensible of their [illegible] that they thought their private harms not to stand in competition [illegible] this general good.

Confusion shall a while bear sway.

Spoken in respect of the Confusion of Governments we then [illegible] First, a Rump Parliament, then a Protector, next a Rump Parliament agen, then a Fools-bauble, called a Committee of safety, afterwards a Rump Parliament agen; now thus, then that, a great many Governments, and none good.

But Fate to England shall restore,
A King to Reign as heretofore.

This was fulfilled in the happy Restauration of King Charles [illegible] Second, which put a period to all those Oligarchical Confusions, [illegible] Restored the Land to its Ancient pristine Government; which till [illegible] groaned under the pressures of a Company of Mechanical (and then [illegible] the worst sort of) Tyrants.

Mercy and Justice too likewise,
He in his time shall exercise.

Of this many are the examples which might be produced; how [illegible]ny, though notorious Delinquents, received to Mercy? Life given [illegible] those, who would have taken his Life away; few only suffering, [illegible] such whose offences were to Capital, as could not come well within [illegible] Merge of a Pardon, or stood upon Justification of their former [illegible]ble Actions; Such rotten Members deserving to be cut off from the [illegible]dy of the Common-wealth; who otherwise would have been very [illegible]norious and prejudicial to those that were sound.

Great Death in London shall be though.

Verified by the great Plague in London 1665 (which for [illegible] was the greatest that hath been known in these latter Centuries of [illegible] and which (if not any thing else) might convince our Sectaries, [illegible] necessary that Prayer in the Letany is for to be used, From Plague, Pestilence and Famine, good Lord deliver us.

But Death shall hurry him away.

And Men on tops of Houses go.

This was suddenly fulfilled in that great Conflagration of Fire, which happened in London, Sept. 2, 3, and 4. Anno 1666. by which so many Houses were destroyed, that men afterwards in the Ruins went on the tops of those Houses, whose lofty structures not long before seemed to praise the Skie, and which would make weak eyes to look up and behold the tops of them.

The Fiery year as soon as o'ered
Peace shall then be as before,
A Phenix City in strange wise,
Shall out of fatal Ashes rise.

These predictions were exactly accomplished by the Peace concluded with the Dutch soon after 1666. called here properly the Fiery year, and the wonderful Rebuilding of the City of London to greater magnificence then ever in so short a space.

When

When Mars again unsheaths his Sword,
Your Treacherous Friends small aid afford:
Great noise there shall be heard, great shouts and cries,
And Seas shall Thunder louder than the Skies.

This alludes to the second Dutch War, wherein the French pretended to be Friends to the English, but afforded them small aid, but in truth basely deserted them in the Engagements at Sea, where the Canons were louder than Thunder.

A Boat a Boat, look thwart the Thames,
The Southern-pile is all on Flames.

This can be understood of nothing but the great Fire in Southwark, wherein the best part of the Burroughs, which she calls the Southern Pile, was Consumed.

The World's in Arms, and ill at ease,
Another World looks on in Peace.
The happy Isle shall freely Trade,
While Blood and Horror mighty Realms Invade.

This was happily as to England verified in the year 1677. when the only stood looking on in Peace, and enjoyed freedom of Trade, whilst all the rest of Europe were fiercely engaged in War.

The Eagle droops, and Moults his Wings,
And sewes arise 'twixt Northern Kings:
Holland is threatned: Spain doth pine,
And Blood shall swell the Rapid Rhyne.

This Relates to the late Wars between France and the Empire, whose Arms are the Eagle; whereby great Destruction was occasioned on the borders of the Riber Rhyne, the Chief seat of that War. And as the two Northern Crowns, Sweeden and Denmark were engaged in Arms one against the other, so Holland was much threatned, and the Spanish Territories in the Low-Countries curtail'd and weakened, besides what may yet happen in that kind hereafter.

But when the Orange and the Rose
Unite, beware old Englands Foes.

By the Rose is commonly understood a branch of the Royal English Stem, and by Orange is plainly denoted, his Highness the Prince of that Title; And tho there has been an Inter-Marriage between these Illustrious Families; yet by the Series of things here foretold.

must be Interpreted in this place, to refer to the Match between the present Prince, and the Princess Mary, Eldest Daughter to his Royal Highness the Duke of York; which the Gazetts shall be of happy consequence to our Nation, in point both of security and advantage, and a great disappointment to the Enemies of England.

In Sixteen Hundred Seventy Eight,
That Corn on which our Horses bait
Shall help preserve a threatned State,
And Treble-bed, and Double-price
A Mass of Villany unhide;
But sturdy doubts abroad are spread,
And each Man believes as he is led.

'Tis not difficult to accommodate this to the Discovery of the Popish-Plot, 1678. The Names of the three Principal Evidence being Hieroglyphically described, viz. Oats, Bedlow, and Prance, and how much their Testimony has been credited by most, and yet disbelieved or doubted of by others, is well known, nor is it our present business to say who is in the right, or who in the wrong.

Confusions now possess the Isle,
And wisest Councils more Embroil.
The Feet by Subtle Arts are led
To dictate to their Soveraign Head,
Till Royal Love exert his Power,
And bring aspiring Babel's Tower.

He that cannot Interpret this part of the Oracle, without an Oedipus, were best to let forth an Hue and Cry after his Memory and Understanding.

Then different furies seek to spoil
The Realm, but guilty meet a foil,
The Flame's extinct by help of Oyl.

This apparently Indicates the last Damnable Plot against the Person of his Sacred Majesty, and his Royal Brother, and the Government; first Discovered most seasonably by a Person that is by Trade an Oyl-man.

A Chriſtal-wall there ſhall be Built
A thwart the Thames, yet all that Skilt,
Heavens Myſtique Language ſhall be blind,
And no cauſe of this wonder find.
Folks Fiſh for Toys, inſtead of Roach,
And for a Watherry, call a Coach.

This is a pat deſcription of the late wonderful Froſt in Decembe 1683. and January and February 1683, & 84. when the Thames for t bove a Month was ſo Frozen, that not only thoulands of people daily paſs'd ober, but whole ſtreets were built, where all ſorts of Tra were ſold, Coaches continually ply'd on the Ice, between the Temp and Weſtminſter as in the ſtreets, Bulls were baited, an whole O Roaſted on the Thames, &c. which as no Age could parrallel, ſo i was obſerved that this extraordinary Froſt was ſo far from being fo told by any of our bulgar Aſtrologers, who pretend to be deep L ned in Heavens books, that on the contrary, they all the while genera promiſed fine moderate temperate Weather.

But before this, Danubius ſtreams,
Shall be more ſtrait-lac'd then the Thames.
The Creſcent does the Eagle threaten,
But is thraſht home, ſeverely beaten;
For the pole-ſtar at laſt appears,
And an All-conquering Banner rears.

The Imperial City Vienna, ſcituate on the River Danow, (t Latine called Danubius) was Beſeiged towards the latter en the year 1683. by two hundred thouſand Turks, (whoſe Arms the Creſcent or Half-Moon encreaſing) under the Command of t Grand Vizier, but after a moſt Valiant and long reſiſtance, the Im by the coming up of the Poliſh Army, under the moſt renow King Sobieſki, (called here by way of alluſion, the Pole-ſtar) join with the United Forces of the Empire, were forc'd to raiſe t Seige, being banquiſht in Battle, and purſued towards Turkey almoſt incredible Slaughter.

Here follows some other Prophesies which because they seem to concern future Revolutions, we shall leave the Interpretation to time, and the Intelligent Reader.

I.

When Tyber's brackish streams Combine,
To mix their Waters with the Slime,
And both do strive to stop the Rhyne,
Cedars shall stoop to Court the Vine.

II.

After thick Clouds, the Welkin clears,
And Albion long Night-mar'd with fears,
With a Sweeter look appears,
Let her be Loyal and quiet at home,
And then defie the Arts of Hell and Rome.

III.

Wait but a while, and the long Floating Ark,
Arrives, and Shipwracks Sisters forged Barque.
The Scarlet Strumpet that so rag'd with Ire,
Shall see her pur'd Flesh consum'd with Fire.
The disbranch'd Olive joyn'd to Judas root,
Brings forth on Jamaica plains redoubled Fruit.

IV.

Now fond Opinions Vanish, Factions cease,
And the World snugs in Universal Peace.
From Heaven Astrea returns, and doth possess
All Japhets spreading Sons with Happiness.
Swords turn'd to Plow-shears, all that was amiss
Remov'd, gives place unto a general Bliss,
But who, O who! shall Live, when God doth this.

Whether Mother Shipton were certainly the Author of all these last Prophetick Lines, is hard to say, but for ought we can find, she Lived to an extraordinary Age, and tho she was generally believed to be a Witch, yet Multitudes that either Read or heard her Prophesies, have had a great Esteem for them and her Memory to this day is much Honoured by those of her own Country.

An Account of Mr. HOLWELL's late Predictions, concerning the *Turk*, *Pope*, and *French* King, &c.

AMongst all that in this Age have adventured to publish Predictions touching Future grand Events, one Mr. JOHN HOLWELL (a Person that by his Writings seems not meanly Versed in Astrology and Calculations) has with most assurance set forth his Conceptions, especially touching great Inroads to be made by the Turks upon Christendome, dangers impending the Potent and now Flourishing Monarchy and Realm of France, The Destruction of Rome and the Pope, &c. Wherefore to gratifie the Readers Curiosity (without obliging his Faith) I shall here subjoyn a Epitomate of some of his Prognostications.

In his Appendix to his Catastrophe Mundi, having assigned the Radix of the Mighty Turkish Monarchy, to a Conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in Aquary, Anno 1285. and comparing therewith the late Conjunctions of those two Superiour Planets in 1682. and 1683. He proceeds p. 19. to give his judgment in these words. Those

Those places will first have their share of Suffering that are under Aquarius, amongst which let Valachia and the South-part of Poland beware; neither shall Muscobia be free, but shall taste of the bitter Cup that is alotted for Europe to taste. Mars making of his long transit in Libra, tells us, that Austria shall be much wasted, and the people thereof brought very low, and a great part of them will be carried Captive, and their great Town Vienna will go near to be lost.

All this was litterally fulfilled last Summer, but by Gods Gracious providence the City of Vienna, (when reduced to the utmost extremity) was Relieb'd, and the Infidels beat off with great Slaughter, and pursued towards their own Territories, by the Victorious King of Poland; whereby 'tis hoped all the Subsequent Mischiefs by this Author threatned, may be prevented, tho he seems of quite another Opinion: for thus he goes on.

Poland shall be much wasted by both Turk and Tartar, for this Conjunction is in square to the Eleventh House of that Kings Election, and the Eclipses fall in the Second. And Mercury Lord of the Seventh House at the time of his Election, is in this Eclipse in square to his Tenth. And Mars Lord of the Tenth, is in Libra weak; This bids Poland to be very careful how he doth go to War during the time that this Conjunction is allotted to Operate, which will be near Twenty Years, for if he doth fall out with either Turk or Tartar he must expect to gain nothing but the Devastation of his Fruitful-Country, with the destruction of his People, if not the hazzard of the Crown, and Dignity of that Potent Kingdome.

Page 21. We find these words; This Triple Conjunction being in Leo, falls in square to Scorpio, this doth bid the Duke of Babaria look to his Country, for the Turk is like to Invade him with a very great Army, and will lay waste a great part of his Territories, and joyn it to the rest of his

Conquest. And Mars being posited in Virgo, at the first time of the three Conjunctions, doth fore-shew that the Dukedome of Wittenburge, shall have the Turks to rage in its Bowels; At which time the Crown of France will begin to shake for fear, and wish that he was a little further from him; but it will be in vain, for the Turk will Invade his new Conquest in Alsatia, and from thence pass through Lorrain into France, and take Burgundy in the twinkling of an Eye. All the United Provinces submit to his protection without being Invaded, and by so doing save their Country from Fire and Sword. And at the same time the Turk will be Victorious in the South-west parts of Germany. Another part of his vast great Army will Range in the South, and in the North-west parts thereof, and pass through Swabia, and enter Franconia, and from thence he will Invade both higher and lower Saxony, even as far as the North parts thereof. It will seem strange to hear that the Turk should be got so far into Germany as Westphalia, and the Country of Juliers, but so it will be, and Gods Will must be done.

Page 26. He again tells us, That the Kingdome of France shall not escape the hands of the Turk, for he will lay waste a great many of its Flourishing Cities, but that it shall be reformed by its own Subjects, who will Rebell and Invite in the Turk, &c.

After which, descanting on the Nativity of his most Christian Majesty, he tells us that about August 1683. his attention was directed to the body of Mars, whence he predicts many miseries and personal hazzards, and particular mentions that the said French Monarchy shall be subject to have dangerous Falls from Horse-back.

Which last, about that time was so far verified, that the said Majesty had a Fall from his Horse and broke or dislocated his Arm.

he proceeds to threaten that great Prince in the year 1684. and for Seaven years after (if he shall so long Live) with Wars and various Infelicities, but in such a stile, as (for the Honour due to all Crowned Heads) I shall forbear to repeat.

Much more modest was that Presage of Mr. Lilly's delivered long since, viz. In the year 1672. at which time the French King made his first attempt upon Holland, viz.

A certain kind of astonishment shall surprize an active potentate of Europe, seeing neither his actions of War or Peace, succeed according to his projected expectations; For he may know that there is an over-ruling power that can contradict all Politick Councils when not grounded upon Equity; And this he ought to remember, that he is not the Man ordained to give Laws to his Neighbouring Nations.

But to return to Mr. Holwell, Page 29. we find these words; Neither will Spain be free from great Calamity, for he must strike his Sail to that Mighty Monarch the Ottoman Emperour. And thou, Oh Italy! hast a great share of this Cup of Gods Wrath, for great will be the scarcity that will be in thy Fruitful Countrey, and an universal Plague will overspread thy Territories, and the Turk will destroy with Fire and Sword a great part of thy Famous Towns and Cities; And he will come even to the Gates of Rome, and Sack it, as bad as the Gawls did, and will keep possession, and destroy it with Fire, and strew Salt upon it, then will the Pope be forced to Fly from place to place, and soon after will there be no more such Cattle in the World.

I have recited these Sayings because they are delivered with so much assurance, to the end, that if the Authour shall be found mistaken, People may learn not to be dismay'd with such bold and vain Prognostications, and that all Artists may hence forwards exercise themselves with greater Caution and Modesty, for tho God Governs Inferiour by Superiours, and the

the Stars may seem to denounce such or such Judgment Calamities impending, yet oft-times the Astrologer is mi in Reading the Characters of Heaven; and at other t God still reserves an over-ruling power to himself, t the Denounciation of Judgments it comes to pass, that by obstinacy and growing wickedness, or the Repentance a mendment of a Nation or People, the said Judgments are ned, aggravated, and rendred more sharp, or on the other protracted, allebiated, remitted, and sometime wholly rem and therefore the best way will be, without too much a our selves about things future, to apply our selves to our sent duties, and to leave secret things to God, who only ly knows them; for the understanding of Man is beil'd, most of his Predictions are but Dreams and Fancies, Old Proverb being most true.

'Mongst all that Foretelling Profess,
He's the best Prophet, best can guess.

FINIS.

There is lately Printed for Benjamin Harris *at the* Stationers-Arms *and* Anchor *in the* Piazza *at the* Royal-Exchange *in* Cornhill, *These Books following, viz.*

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